

Claim Amendments:

1. (Currently Amended) A patch panel mountable to a network rack, comprising:

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a patch panel frame forming a central section, the patch panel frame and having a longitudinal width sized to fit within the network rack, a predefined height, a front side, ~~and~~ a rear side; and rack mounting plates provided on opposite longitudinal ends of the central section,

wherein the central section ~~is~~ includes two panel sections angled outwardly in an inverted V-shape, each of the two panel sections of the central section having ~~mountable~~ mounted thereon a plurality of cable connectors that receive cabling on the front side and the rear side of the patch panel frame, each connector having a horizontal axis, the central section includes a separator portion connecting the two angled panel sections to provide clearance for the connectors mounted in the panel sections.

2. (Currently Amended) The patch panel according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of cable connectors are ~~when mounted on the central section being oriented~~ to have rear surfaces of the cable connectors ~~thereof~~ face a common axis of the central section.

3. (Previously Presented) The patch panel according to claim 2, wherein the frame includes at least one faceplate opening.

4. (Original) The patch panel according to claim 3, wherein at least two faceplate openings are provided, one on each side of the common axis of the central section.

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5. (Original) The patch panel according to claim 3, further comprising at least one removable insert module sized to fit within said at least one faceplate opening, the at least one removable insert module containing at least one of the plurality of cable connectors.

6. (Original) The patch panel according to claim 5, wherein the at least one removable insert module is snap fittable to the at least one faceplate opening.

7. (Original) The patch panel according to claim 6, wherein the plurality of cable connectors connect to at least one of UTP, ScTP, coaxial and fiber optic cables.

8. (Original) The patch panel according to claim 5, wherein six faceplate openings are provided, three on each side of the common axis of the central section.

9. (Original) The patch panel according to claim 8, wherein each faceplate opening includes at least one removable insert module and each insert module receives twelve cable connectors.

10. (Original) The patch panel according to claim 5, wherein twelve faceplate openings are provided, six on each side of the common axis of the central section.

11. (Original) The patch panel according to claim 10, wherein each faceplate opening includes at least one removable insert module and each insert module receives four cable connectors.

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12. (Currently Amended) The patch panel according to claim 1, wherein the two panel sections of the central section of the frame ~~has two angled panel sections~~, are each angled relative to the other section by an obtuse angle ϕ of between 90° and 180° .

13. (Original) The patch panel according to claim 12, wherein the angle ϕ is between 100° to 140° .

14. (Original) The patch panel according to claim 12, wherein the angle ϕ is between 110° to 130° .

15. (Original) The patch panel according to claim 12, wherein the angle ϕ is about 120° .

16. (Original) The patch panel according to claim 12, wherein the two panel sections are the same length.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) A patch panel assembly for a network rack comprising the patch panel of claim 1 and a cable support bar mountable to the rear of the patch panel.

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19. (Original) The patch panel assembly of claim 18, wherein the cable support bar includes a bar portion having a longitudinal width sized to fit within the network rack, and rack mounting plates at longitudinal ends of the bar portion.

20. (Currently Amended) A network rack and patch panel assembly, comprising:

a network rack having two rails spaced a predetermined distance from each other, each rail including spaced mounting openings; and

a patch panel mounted to the network rack, the patch panel including

a patch panel frame forming a central section, the patch panel frame and having a longitudinal width sized to fit between the two rails, a predefined height, a front side, and a rear side; and rack mounting plates provided on opposite longitudinal ends of the central section connected to ones of the spaced mounting openings of the rails,

wherein the central section is includes two panel sections angled outwardly in an inverted V-shape, each of the two panel sections of the central section having mounted thereon a plurality of cable connectors that receive cabling on the front side and the rear side of the patch panel frame, each connector having a horizontal axis, the central section includes a separator portion connecting the two angled panel sections to provide clearance for the connectors mounted in the panel sections.

21. (Currently Amended) The patch panel according to claim 20, wherein the plurality of cable connectors are mounted on the central section ~~being oriented~~ to have rear surfaces of the cable connectors ~~thereof~~ face a common axis of the central section.

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22. (Previously Presented) The network rack and patch panel assembly of claim 21, wherein the central section includes at least two faceplate openings, one on each side of the common axis of the central section.

23. (Original) The network rack and patch panel assembly of claim 22, further comprising at least two removable insert modules sized to fit within one of the at least two faceplate openings, each of the removable insert modules containing at least one of the plurality of cable connectors.

24. (Currently Amended) The network rack and patch panel assembly of claim 22, wherein the two panel sections of the central section of the frame ~~has two angled panel sections,~~ are each angled relative to the other section by an obtuse angle ϕ of between about 100° to 140° .

25. (Original) The network rack and patch panel assembly of claim 24, wherein the central section of the frame has two angled panel sections, each angled relative to the other by an obtuse angle ϕ of between 90° and 180° .

26. (Original) The network rack and patch panel assembly according to claim 25, wherein the angle ϕ is about 120° .

27. (Original) The network rack and patch panel assembly of claim 20, further comprising a cable support bar mounted between the rack rails.

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28. (Previously Presented) The patch panel according to claim 2, wherein the common axis of the central section is located at a midpoint of the central section.

29. (Previously Presented) The patch panel according to claim 21, wherein the common axis of the central section is located at a midpoint of the central section.

30. (New) A patch panel mountable to a network rack, comprising:

a patch panel frame forming a central section, the patch panel frame having a longitudinal width sized to fit within the network rack, a predefined height, a front side, a rear side, and rack mounting plates provided on opposite longitudinal ends of the central section for mounting the patch panel frame horizontally,

wherein the central section is angled outwardly in an inverted V-shape, the central section having mounted thereon a plurality of cable connectors that receive cabling on the front side and the rear side of the patch panel frame; and

a vertical cable manager located adjacent the network rack, wherein the cabling on the front side of the patch panel frame flows substantially horizontally within the predefined height of the patch panel frame to the vertical cable manager.

31. (New) A patch panel mountable to a network rack, comprising:

a patch panel frame forming a central section, the patch panel frame having a longitudinal width sized to fit within the network rack, a predefined height, a front side, a rear side, and rack mounting plates provided on opposite longitudinal ends of the central section,

wherein the central section is angled outwardly in an inverted V-shape, the central

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amcl'd.* section having mounted thereon a plurality of cable connectors that receive cabling on the front side and the rear side of the patch panel frame, said connectors having a horizontal axis such that the inverted V-shape of the central section directs said cabling on the front side of the patch panel frame, immediately upon exiting the connectors, horizontally towards a vertical plane that intersects one of the rack mounting plates and is perpendicular to a horizontal axis extending between the rack mounting plates.
